

Answers for Common Interim Hydromodification Management Criteria Questions

1. Q: How do I know if my project is required to manage hydromodification impacts?
A: If your project disturbs 50 acres or more, it must manage hydromodification impacts, or show that it is exempt.
2. Q: How can I show that my project, which disturbs 50 acres or more, is exempt?
A: You can show your project is exempt if it meets any of the following criteria:
 1. The proposed project would discharge into channels that are concrete-lined or significantly hardened, such as with riprap or sackcrete, down to their outfall in bays or the ocean;
 2. The proposed project would discharge into underground storm drains discharging directly to bays or the ocean;
 3. The proposed project would discharge to a channel where the watershed areas below the project's discharge points are highly impervious (>70%);
 4. The project proponent conducts an assessment incorporating sediment transport modeling across the range of geomorphically-significant flows that demonstrates to the County's satisfaction that the project flows and sediment reductions will not detrimentally affect the receiving water.
3. Q: What is a geomorphic assessment and how do I perform one?
A: [Click here to review PWA memo, dated May 14, 2008.](#)
4. Q: How do I perform a continuous simulation model?
A: [Click here to review B&C memo, dated May 9, 2008.](#)
5. Q: How do I know if my project, which is currently in the plan review process, needs to meet the new requirements?
A: If your project has a prior lawful approval (such as a development agreement, vested tentative map, or a building or grading permit) or has started construction before March 25, 2008, your project may not have to meet the interim hydromodification management requirements. Please verify with your County project manager who will confirm with County Counsel.